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Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 00990 161552Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /065 W
----------161637Z 065096 /42
R 161517Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4002
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0990

FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: POL, MILI, US, DA
SUBJ: DANISH EFFORT IN INCREASE F16 COPRODUCTION

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 930, (B) SECDEF R 102148Z FEB 77,
(C) COPENHAGEN 869

1. I WOULD LIKE TO PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER'S PLEA FOR AN INCREASED SHARE IN THE OFFSET ARRANGEMENT RELATED TO THE F-16 PRODUCTION.

2. FIRST OF ALL, THE DANES ARE BASICALLY DISPOSED TO SIGN THE F-16 LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE BUT ARE CONDUCTING LAST MINUTE MANEUVERS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS TO BE LET IN DENMARK. BY WRITING TO SECRETARY BROWN AND SHOWING AN UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN THE LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE BY APRIL 1, DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER HOPES TO OBTAIN MORE CONTRACTS FOR DENMARK BY THAT DEADLINE, OR AT LEAST FIRM PROMISES OF ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS TO BE NEGOTIATED AFTER APRIL 1.

3. SECOND, THE DANES FULLY REALIZE THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE A LEGAL CASE TO GET 58 PERCENT OFFSET, BUT NEVETHELESS THERE
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IS A BROADLY SHARED DANISH FEELING THAT THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE COPRODUCTION ARE GETTING MORE THAN THEY ARE AND THEY FEEL "CHEATED".

4. THIRD, THE ELECTIONS WHICH WERE HELD YESTERDAY REINFORCE THE POSITION OF THE SAME PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WELL IN THE PAST, I.E., THE SOCIAL

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DEMOCRATS. THEY HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITION IN DENMARK, AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE KEY PARTY FOR SOME TIME TO COME. WE THEREFORE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THEM, BOTH ON THE F-16 AS WELL AS IN GETTING A REASONABLE DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH WILL NOT REDUCE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. I KNOW FROM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE TOP OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE THAT THEY SUPPORT ORLA MOLLER'S POSITION ON DANISH SHARE OF F-16 OFFSET.

5. FINALLY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH ARE FRIENDS OF THE U.S. THIS IS WHY THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN SPEAK OPENLY TO US ABOUT GETTING ADDITIONAL CONTRACTS FOR DENMARK. THE VICTORIOUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD LIKE TO ASSUAGE DOUBTS WITHIN THEIR OWN RANKS AND SHOW TO THE OTHER PARTIES THAT THE CHOICE THEY MADE IN SELECTING THE F-16 WAS A WISE ONE. FOR THIS THEY NEED TO POINT TO AN UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN POSITION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRACTS WHICH DOES NOT MAKE DANISH INDUSTRIES COMPARE UNFAVORABLY WITH OTHER EUROPEAN PARTNERS.
DEAN

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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